**AFRICA RISING Nutrition Approaches Phase**

**Key objectives:**

1. Improve the food security and diet diversity of households, with a focus on women(pregnant, lactating, women of child bearing age) and children under five (first 1000 days)

* Increase production of diversified crops/livestock to improve access and availability
* Increase consumption of diversified diets amongst women and children
* Improve nutrition knowledge and care practices through effective behaviour change strategies
* Build capacity at the individual and institutional levels for research on nutrition, nutrition –agriculture linkages, post- harvest , nutrition sensitive soil management and value addition
* Expand nutrition sensitive value chains and market linkages for improved nutrition
* Improve post- harvest technologies for improved nutrition
* Identify agriculture impact pathways to nutrition(income/markets, production diversification, nutrition education/behaviour change, women empowerment

**Nutrition Approaches**

* **Assessment**
* synthesize and publish results of completed household nutrition studies in all sites
* Screen past and ongoing nutrition pilot interventions to ensure they are nutrition sensitive, select potential promising interventions
* Map out relevant nutrition stakeholders /development partners and explore partnership opportunities: identify entry points for effective linkages for nutrition outcomes
* **Crop and livestock diversification for nutrition:** promote integrated farm systems (crop and livestock diversification)
  + Test and follow up on crop interventions protocols in the three sites
* Irrigated vegetable and fruit gardens
* home gardens
* Improved varieties of legumes (fava beans, pigeon peas, chick peas etc.
* production of improved planting material of indigenous fruit and vegetable trees
* Participatory modelling of farms and systems for nutrition security and income
* Test technologies for conservation of fruits and vegetables from indigenous trees and vegetables
* Evaluate and Scale up production of indigenous fruit and vegetable tree gardens
  + Livestock interventions:
* Carry on activities promoting poultry/ small ruminant production
* Sheep fattening, beef fattening , improved breed dairy cattle for increased availability of animal source products
* **Improve soil management**
* Carry on studies to evaluate the effect of various fertilizer blends on nutritional quality of grain crops and their residues for livestock
* **Nutrition education, awareness creation ,training and policy advocacy to promote consumption of nutritious foods (both animal and plant sources**
* Design/adapt Nutrition Training of Trainer modules on (diet diversification, malnutrition, care feeding practices, hygiene, and sanitation) in all sites: Cascade trainings in the community to reach target beneficiaries.
* Scale out nutrition trainings on agriculture nutrition health linkage targeting community intuitions, innovation platforms and farmer research groups
* Scale out sensitization campaigns/trainings to improve knowledge on crop/livestock diversification, diet diversification and mitigating aflatoxins
* Scale out Implementation of cooking demonstrations at the HH level
* Conduct training on processing and utilization of nutritious locally grown foods
* Collaborate with Africa RISING communication team and engage innovation platforms for technology dissemination
* **Behaviour change strategies for improved nutrition**
* Conduct studies (Ethiopia)to identify the most effective behaviour change strategy relevant for agriculture interventions
* Design /adapt relevant Behavior Change Communication (BCC) material
* Scale out disseminate behaviour change communication materials targeting institutions and beneficiaries
* Carry on work on research evaluating effect of BCC and education on nutrition
* **Promote nutrition sensitive value chains, product development approaches**
* Test and promote technologies to conserve indigenous fruits and vegetables for off season consumption
* Follow up work on studies testing nutrient retention in existing household/commercial food fortification to improve nutrition
* Develop nutritious complementary foods from locally grown foods
* Assess nutrient composition, sensory parameters, consumer acceptability of nutritionally dense complementary foods
* **Improve post- harvest technologies and mitigate aflatoxin contamination for improved nutrition**
* Carry on studies on effect of traditional processing methods on nutrient retention and bioavailability
* Introduce, evaluate and promote technologies to reduce post-harvest losses
* Introduce, evaluate and promote labor -saving devices for value additions/processing (milk, butter, milk processing)
* Test the efficacy of atoxigenic strains of Aspergillus flavus as bio pesticides to reduce aflatoxin levels under farm conditions.
* **Gender empowerment for nutrition**
  + Collaborate closely with gender team through joint planning and training